SPICE & WOLF
VOL. 11
STORY:
ISUNA HASEKURA
ART:
KEITO KOUME
CHARACTER DESIGN:
JYUU AYAKURA
PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

SPICE & WOLF

SPICE & WOLF

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SPICE & WOLF

FOLLOWING EVE'S SECOND REFUSAL, I WASN'T PERMITTED TO ENTER HER ROOMS—

I INSTEAD DELIVERED LETTERS VIA AN ELDERLY SERVANT SEVERAL TIMES THEREAFTER.

AND THE TIME SPENT WAITING FOR THE REPLY LENGTHENED CONSIDERABLY.

THEY MUST BE NEARING THE HEART OF THE DEAL'S CONDITIONS.

SPICE & WOLF

IF THE RIVER FLOW GETS ANY FASTER...

...WE'LL HAVE TO ROW THAT MUCH FASTER.

THE BOSS IS LOSING PATIENCE.

SEEMS THE ABOVEBOARD ASSEMBLY IS MOVING AS WELL...

...UNDER-STOOD.

THEY DIDN'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO LET THE WAX ON THE SEAL HARDEN...

IT SEEMS TO BE TAKING AN ETERNITY THIS TIME...

CHIRA (GLANCE)

WHAT ...?

GACHA (CLANK)

ガチャ

!

!

NO!

GASHI
(GRAB)

ガトン

GATON (SLAM)

I WONDER WHY EVE'S TAKING SO LONG TO REPLY...

KIEMAN'S PROBABLY HANDLING MORE THINGS THAN EVE IS ON THE ASSEMBLY FRONT...

...AND HE'S MAKING DECISIONS AND WRITING REPLIES ON THE FLY TO THE LETTERS I BRING.

HMM...

ZA (SPLASH)

ZA

ZA

ZA

IS EVE UNDER MORE PRESSURE THAN KIEMAN?

EVEN IF SOMEONE'S BRINGING HER LETTERS FOR HER...

I HAD TO WAIT A WHILE THIS TIME TOO... BUT HAS SHE EVEN LOOKED AT A SINGLE ONE?

THERE WERE SO MANY LETTERS STREWN ABOUT EVE'S ROOM...

...WHAT'S THE POINT OF LEAVING THEM ALL SCATTERED LIKE THAT?

SUCH LACK OF MODERATION COULD BE THE PRODUCT OF EVE NOT HAVING BEEN A MERCHANT BY NATURE!

—LIKE A SELFISH CHILD, EVE SAID SHE WANTED ALL OF THE PROFIT.

BUT JUST BECAUSE IT FITS DOESN'T MAKE IT SO.

IF I TAKE THAT AT FACE VALUE, IT FITS...

GOKURI (GULP)

WHAT IF... WHAT IF IT WAS ALL EVE PUTTING ON A SHOW?

IN BUSINESS, SOME DEALS ARE MORE PROFITABLE IF YOU WAIT, OTHERS IF YOU MOVE QUICKLY.

THIS DEAL FALLS INTO THE LATTER CATEGORY, BUT...

—SHE'S TRYING TO BUY TIME!

ガシ!!!

@A
(GRAB)

MESSAGE FOR KIEMAN.

.....

THE WOLF MAY BE A DECOY.

PHEW...

IT'S KIEMAN, SO HE'LL UNDERSTAND JUST FROM THAT.

NATURALLY, THE SLY FOXES CALLED "ELDERS" REMEMBERED THEIR OWN YOUNGER DAYS AND PREPARED ACCORDINGLY.

...ON THE PROWL CONSTANTLY, SEARCHING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO OUTWIT THOSE AROUND THEM.

THERE'S ALWAYS PEOPLE OF TALENT LIKE KIEMAN IN ANY COMPANY...

BE A SLIPPERY OPPONENT TO RUN OUT THE CLOCK...AND TEACH THE UPSTART A LESSON?

HAD THE ELDERS GIVEN EVE THE ROLE OF STOPPING KIEMAN FROM RUNNING AMOK?

EVEN BORROWING HOLO'S STRENGTH, I'D LOSE MY PLACE IN THE COMPANY.

I WON'T GET OFF SCOT-FREE EITHER!

NO, IN THE WORST CASE, CHIEF JEEDA MIGHT SEEK KIEMAN'S RESIGNA-TION?

—WHAT DID HE SAY?

GA (GRAB)

I'M NOT SAYING THIS WITHOUT REASON. THERE'S STILL TIME. YOU HAVE TO TELL THEM—

...!

DID YOU NOT TELL HIM?

THIS IS THE LAST ONE.

DO (SHOVE)

ENOUGH.

PAKU (GAPE)

PAKU

...SO DO YOU...!

I HAVE ORDERS FROM THE BOSS.

YOU FORGET YOURSELF, MERCHANT ...!

GUGU (GRIP)

AND...

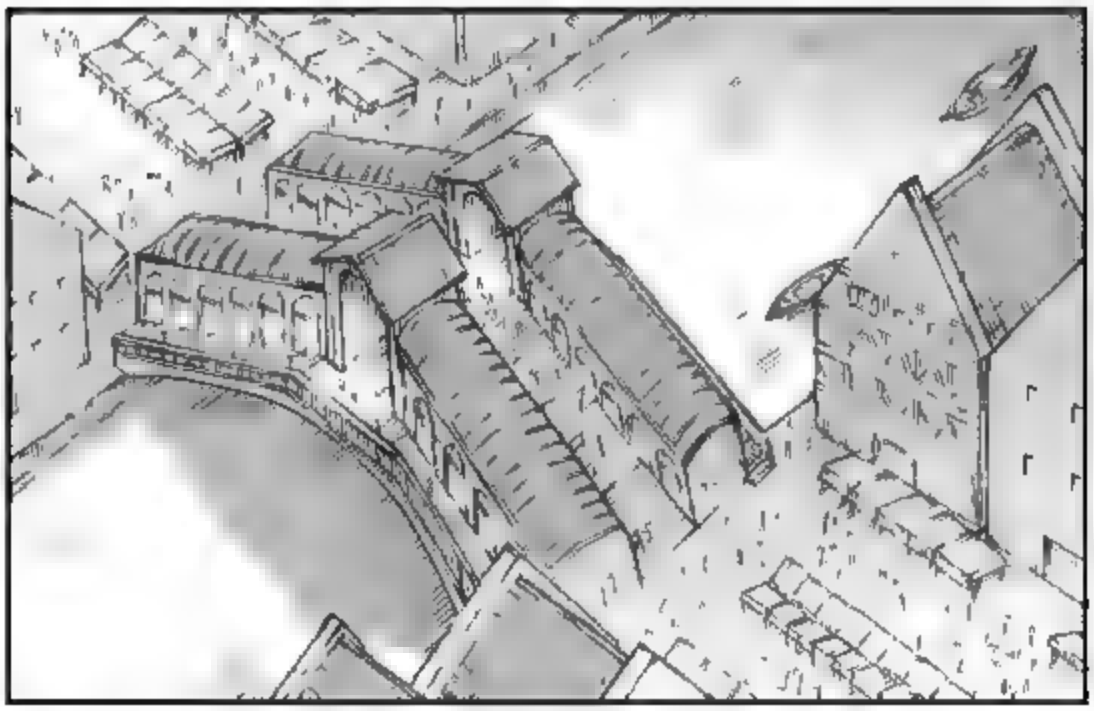
KOFF!

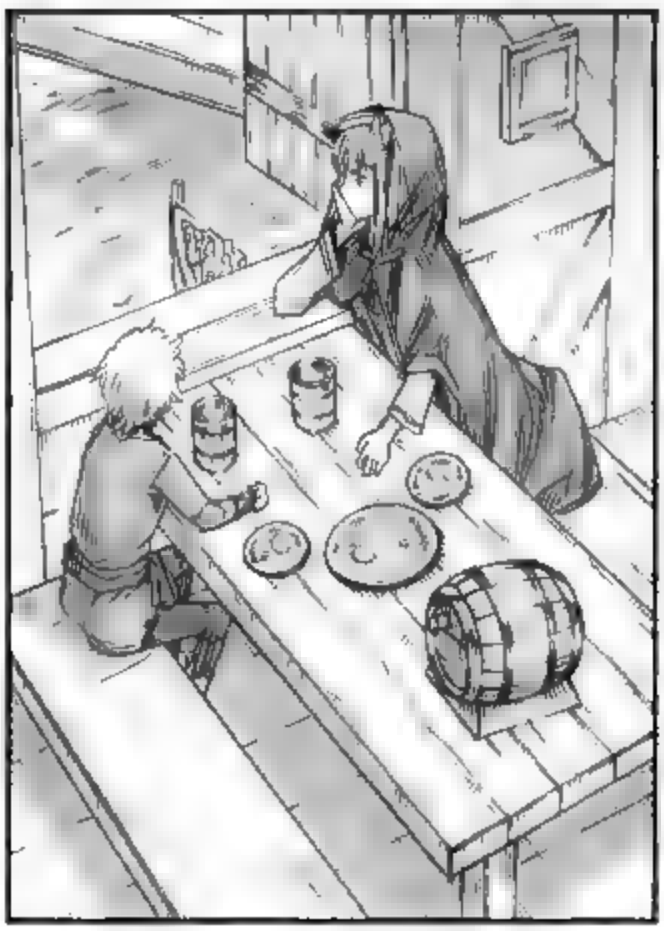
KOFF!

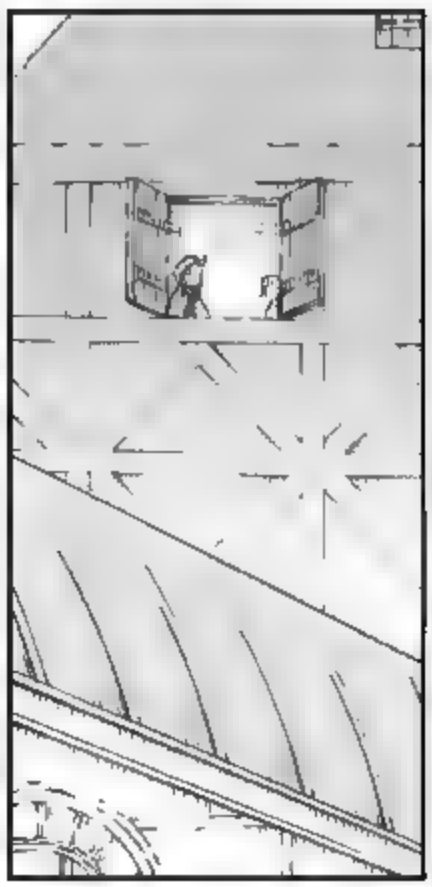
PERHAPS EVE SIMPLY CAN'T STAND BEING USED AS A TOOL BY OTHERS.

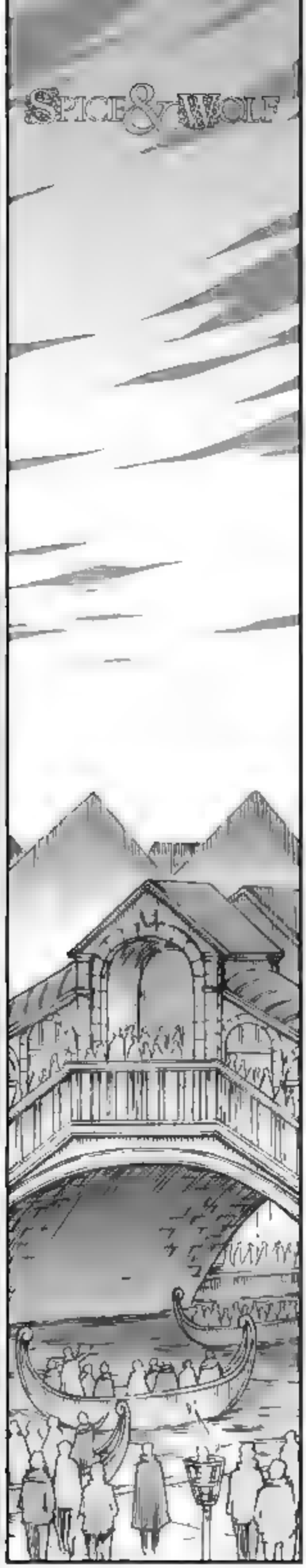
HOWEVER, SHE STILL RETAINS SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE CONFIDENCE IN HER WORK FOR THE SOUTH SIDE.

IN THE END, I DIDN'T DELIVER THE LAST LETTER DIRECTLY TO EVE EITHER...

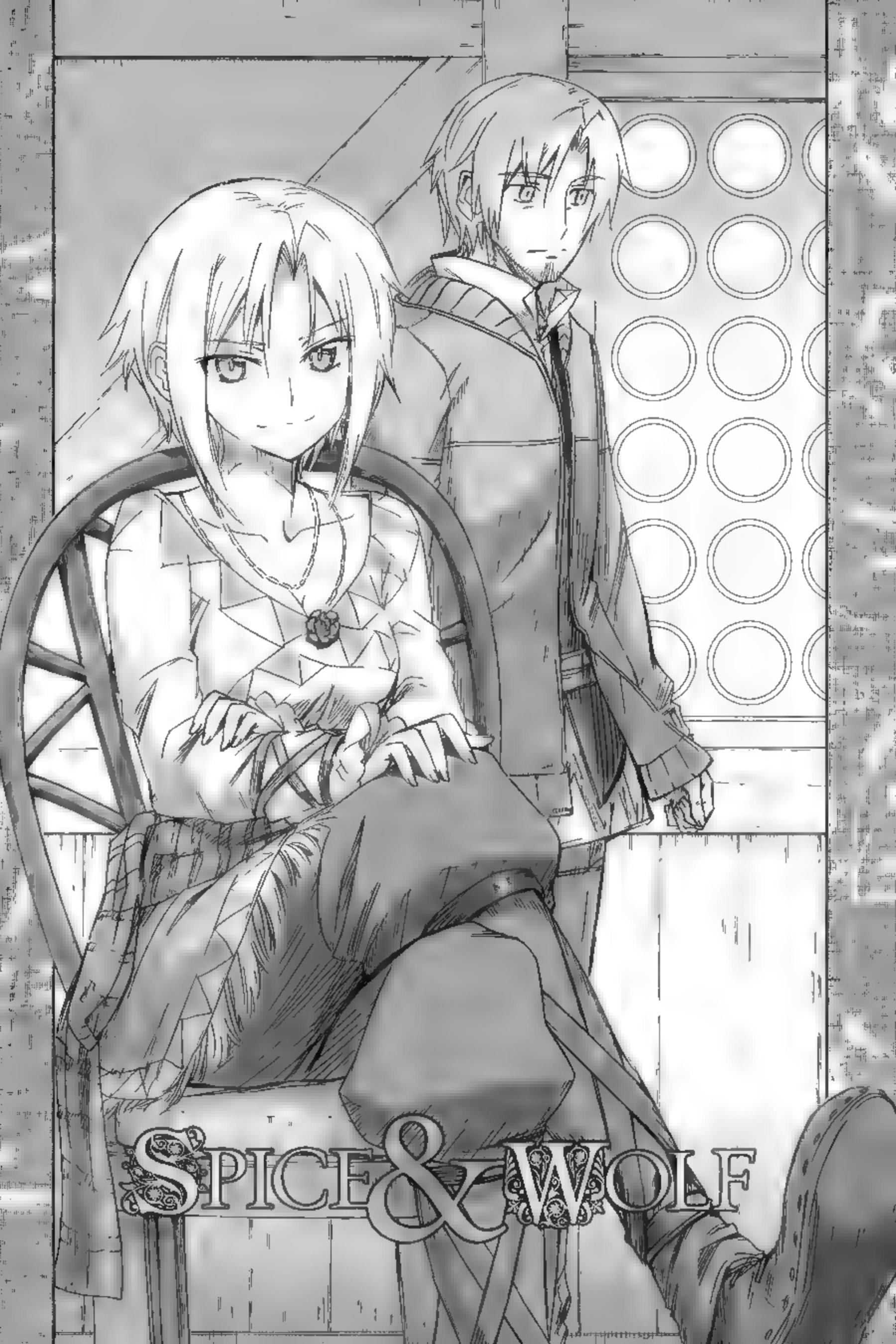








WELL,
'TIS A TIRESOME
DEVELOPMENT,
NO?


SPICE&WOLF

むぅ
HMM

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL, IF THE NORTH GAVE UP ON THE NARWHAL FOR A SHARE OF THE SOUTH'S PROFITS FROM THE SALE...

IN SUCH A CASE...

PERHAPS WE MISSED EACH OTHER ON THE WAY IN, AND HE MADE HIS WAY BACK TO OUR LODGINGS...

HE DIDN'T ACTUALLY SAY HE'D MEET US HERE.

WELL, SURELY HE'S JUST FI.....

!?

I WONDER IF MR. LAWRENCE IS ALL RIGHT...

...ALL THE STRESS HERE WOULD MELT AWAY, AND WE COULD DRINK IN PEACE.

HISO (WHISPER)

HISO

I MOVE FOR SWIFT CONSID-ERATION OF THE PROPOSAL THAT...

...WE, THE JEAN COMPANY, PURCHASE THE HOLY BEAST ENTIRELY IN COIN!

EVERY-ONE!

THIS MAY BE TROUBLE-SOME...

ZAWA

ZAWA

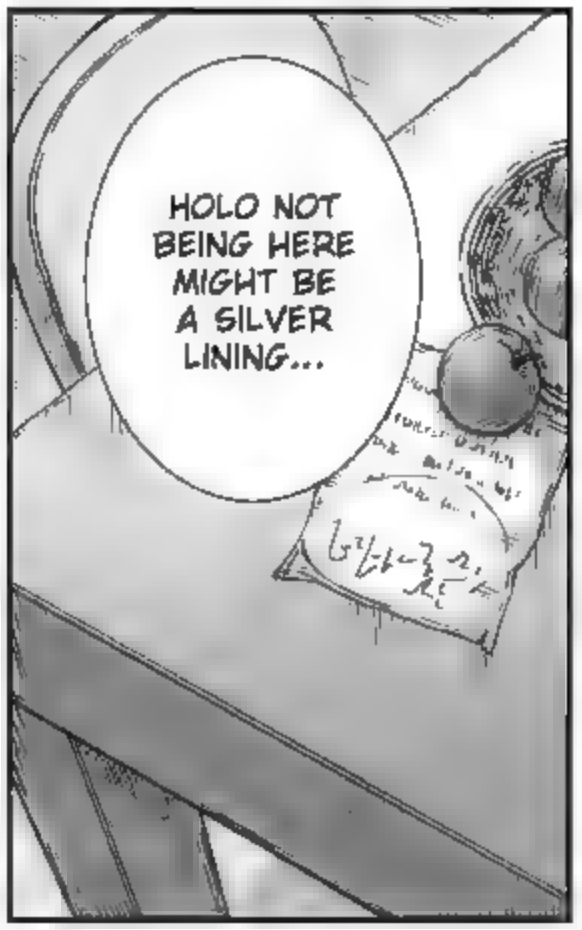
ZAWA

ZAWA

ZAWA (CLAMOR)

WE HAVE PREPARED ALL THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED!

THE FACE I'M SURELY MAKING MUST BE QUITE A SIGHT...


HOLO NOT BEING HERE MIGHT BE A SILVER LINING...

ゴロン
GORON (ROLL)

DO I REALLY NEED TO THINK EVERY LITTLE DETAIL THROUGH?

WELL, ALL I'M CERTAIN OF IS THAT I'M MERELY KIEMAN'S PAWN.

—HOLO WOULD BE DISAPPOINTED ...

HERE, LET ME GET THAT...

GACHA

ガチャ

?

NO KNOCK, SO PROBABLY HOLO...

GACHA (KACHAK)

ガチャ

GACHA

ガチャ

YORO (STAGGER)
よろ..

WHAT ...?

はあ HFF

はあ HFF

IT'S ALL GONE AWRY.

NEVER MIND THAT! GET IN!

...BUT I WANTED TO AT LEAST...

IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME...

YORO

ヨロ..

WHAT HAPPENED?

HFF! はあ

HFF! はあ

SHE'S HOT TO THE TOUCH...HAS SHE BEEN RUNNING?

HFF! はあ

HFF! はあ

HFF! はあ

GAKU (WOBBLE)

GAKU

.....!

SO YOU... REALLY DON'T KNOW...

はあ HFF!

はあ HFF!

NO, LET'S FIRST MOVE ELSEWHERE ONCE YOU'VE CALMED DOWN.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING H—

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...

WHEW...

FORTU-NATELY, I...PASSED NO ONE ON THE WAY HERE...

THIS... CAN'T BE...!

KASA (RUSTLE)

TAKE THIS...

WHY DID YOU COME HERE!?

HMMM

.....
.....

COULDN'T YOU RUN AWAY?

...YOU'RE REALLY NOT... CUT OUT TO BE A MERCHANT...

AND I DOUBT YOU'RE CUT OUT TO BE A WOLF.

HEH...

MY NAME HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CONVENIENT TOOL...

...THE FURS FROM LENOS I'D PUT MOST OF MY MONEY IN WERE CONFISCATED.

UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES LIKE THESE, I HAVEN'T THE COURAGE TO BE A WOLF ANY LONGER.

...WHEN THE TROUBLE OVER THE NARWHAL FIRST BEGAN...

ONLY MY FATHER AND A FEW ECCEN-TRICS...

...HAVE EVER MADE A POINT OF ADDRESSING ME BY IT...

...A LIFE MEASURED ONLY BY ITS COMMERCIAL VALUE—

...A TOOL...

A PAWN...

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I'VE HEARD RUMORS ABOUT EVE BEING A FORMER NOBLE.

A NOBLE IS AN INTER-SECTION OF PERSONAL CONNEC-TIONS...

EVE BOLAN...

...WHETHER SHE WANTS TO BE OR NOT.

...YOU WISH TO BE CALLED BY YOUR OWN NAME, DON'T YOU?

...WHEN YOU PUT IT SO PLAINLY, IT'S EMBARRASSING.

SO YOU WANTED THEM TO CRY OUT YOUR NAME...

...EVEN IF IT WAS IN RAGE.

I MEANT TO LEAVE THIS ROTTEN PLACE ONCE THIS WAS ALL OVER.

ONE CAN ONLY DISREGARD REALITY FOR SO LONG...

AS FOR THAT... THERE'S NOTHING TO BE DONE NOW...

BUT... I COULDN'T BEAR YOU NOT UNDER-STANDING...

OF COURSE, I WON'T MIND IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME...

BAN (WHAM)

WE'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER! TO THINK YOU'D FLEE HERE...

FITTING PERHAPS...

MAY I ASSUME THE SENDER IS TED REYNOLDS?

...THAT DOES INDEED SEEM TO BE A LETTER.

IT IS, BUT...I HAVE NO INTENTION OF SELLING THE NARWHAL TO REYNOLDS.

...ALTHOUGH WE DON'T HAVE AN AWFUL LOT OF TIME.

WELL, WE'LL HEAR ALL ABOUT IT...

クイ KUI (JERK)

ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA
ZA (CROWD)
QUITE THOROUGHLY, I SHOULD ADD.
THE WOLF TRIED TO SET ME UP.
CAN'T YOU DISCUSS IT HERE!?

AT THE ASSEMBLY HALL, REYNOLDS DECLARED HE HAD THE MONEY TO BUY THE NARWHAL.

HE'S MADE ALL THE ARRANGE-MENTS.

PERHAPS THIS LETTER ASKS EVE BOLAN TO SEE TO THE DETAILS?

WE'RE TAKING HER SOMEWHERE APPROPRIATE TO FERRET OUT THE TRUTH.

MOZO (SQUIRM)

MOZO

.....
.....

DO YOU NOT UNDER-STAND THAT YOU WERE DELIBERATELY SPARED?

!?

BIKU (JOLT)

UGH!

BA (RUSH)

IF YOU SPEAK OF THIS TO ANOTHER, YOU'LL REGRET IT.

MR. LAWRENCE ...

I'M QUITE DESPERATE MYSELF, YOU SEE.

.....

I TRUST YOU...

...EVE BOLAN.

PATAN (SHUT)

HOW ABSURD ...

...IF I DUG INTO THIS SCHEME...!

MOST LIKELY... NO, MOST CERTAINLY...

EVEN I SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRY OPEN A CRACK...

WHEN SOMETHING TOTALLY OUTSIDE THEIR EXPECTATIONS THREW OFF THEIR CAREFULLY ARRANGED PLAN—

—THE RESPONSE WAS VIOLENT BUT SIMPLE.

GACHA (KACHAK)

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE WISDOM, I'LL LEND IT.

THOUGH I DO WONDER...

...HOW MANY TIMES WILL YOU BORROW MY WISDOM TO SAVE ANOTHER FEMALE?

I SENT COL AFTER THEM.

THAT'S ALL I NEED.

AH, AND YET YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I TRAVEL WITH.

PON (PAT)
ポン
!
HOKA (STEAM)
ホカ
HOKA
ホカ
SORRY! YOU MUST BE COLD.
GOOD MORNING, MR. LAWRENCE, MISS HOLO.
SO KIEMAN'S STILL THERE TOO...
MR. KIEMAN AND THE OTHERS ENTERED THE CHURCH AND HAVEN'T LEFT SINCE.
MUSHA
むしゃ
MUSHA (KRONSH)
むしゃ

I HAVE AN IDEA.

!

WELL, IF I'M GOING TO SAVE HER, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET IN AND SPEAK TO HIM FACE-TO-FACE...

SO THEN...HOW SHOULD WE ATTACK—

PON (PAT)

SPICE & WOLF

STATE YOUR BUSINESS.

WE HAVE BUSINESS WITH LUD KIEMAN OF THE ROWEN TRADE GUILD.

GACHA GACHAKO

WAIT HERE A MOMENT.

INSIDE.

LAST ROOM ON THE RIGHT.

GON (KNOCK)

GON

I WOULD SPEAK WITH MR. KIEMAN.

.....

.....

GACHA (KACHAK)

!

WHAT KIND OF NEGOTIATION DO YOU SEEK, I WONDER?

A CONVER-SATION WITH MY ACQUAIN-TANCE.

SU (SLIP)

ZUI (CLOSE)

THAT'S VERY DIRECT OF YOU. DO YOU THINK I'LL ALLOW THAT?

I DON'T EXPECT IT WILL BE EASY, NO.

KI (GLARE)

I HAVEN'T THE LUXURY OF WASTING TIME ON YOU.

FORTUNATELY, THIS CHURCH HAS MANY OTHER ROOMS—

HOW ABOUT THIS?

I TRULY THOUGHT YOU SPARED ME BECAUSE IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO BRING ME IN.

OF COURSE. BUT I'M SURPRISED YOU WOULD ASSUME I CAME HERE UNPREPARED.

—SHE SOLD ME SEVERAL PARCHMENTS WITH YOUR SIGNATURE ON THEM.

MISS EVE TRIED ALL SORTS OF THINGS TO BRING ME OVER TO HER SIDE.

SHE EVEN HELPED ME ENSURE MY OWN SAFETY. FOR EXAMPLE—

TON (TAP)

トン

TON

トン

WAIT.

BIKU (JERK)

ヒル

GIR (CLENCH)

ギリ

I NOTICE YOU HAVEN'T BROUGHT THAT GIRL WITH YOU TODAY.

AND EVEN A GIRL CAN CARRY A FEW PAPERS IN HER PURSE.

.....

SHE'S THE QUICKER ONE, AFTER ALL.

VERY WELL.

I WILL SPEAK WITH YOU... BUT ONLY BRIEFLY.

GOKON (KACLUNK)

ゴ!!

コン

IF YOU'VE ANYTHING I NEED, I'LL PAY YOU A FAIR PRICE FOR IT.

...UNDER-STOOD.

FIRSTLY, RIGHT NOW, IS MISS EVE...

I'LL NOT HAVE A SINGLE MARK PUT ON HER BEFORE I'VE SEEN THE ENTIRE PICTURE.

I AM MORE CAUTIOUS THAN MOST.

...STILL SAFE?

YOU'RE THINKING THE NORTH SIDE HAS A WEALTHY ALLY.

AND YOU DON'T KNOW HOW MISS EVE IS CONNECTED.

THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY WEALTHY FAMILIES NEARBY. I'M LOOKING INTO THEM ALL.

BASED ON WHAT MISS EVE TOLD ME YESTERDAY, MR. REYNOLDS'S LETTER PULLED THE RUG OUT FROM UNDER HER.

IF MR. REYNOLDS THINKS HE CAN USE HER TO MAKE A SECRET ARRANGEMENT WITH YOU...

...IT'S QUITE A CARD TO PLAY.

MR. REYNOLDS MANAGES THE JUICIEST TRADE ON THE NORTH SIDE.

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE ANYONE IN THE NORTH HAS SUCH MONEY.

AND THE PURPOSE OF THAT?

...SOMEONE TOLD HIM TO SAY HE'D BUY IT, EVEN WITHOUT THE MONEY.

OF COURSE, I CAN'T REFUTE THE POS-SIBILITY THAT...

OF COURSE...

...TO SQUEEZE MONEY FROM THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN WORKING IN THE SHADOWS, LIKE US.

THE NORTH HAS LOST EVERY BATTLE SO FAR.

THEY'RE PROBABLY DESPERATE TO SCRAPE SOME PROFIT OUT OF THIS.

PAY OR WE BLOW UP YOUR PRECIOUS, ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY.

...WHO WOULD ACCOUNT FOR ALL THE PROPOSALS I SAW IN EVE'S HIDEAWAY.

THERE ARE SURELY MANY SUCH PEOPLE...

EVEN ***EVE BOLAN*** MUST BE BURNING THROUGH HER FUNDS.

YOU'D THINK WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WITH GRAND PLANS FOR A SALE LIKE THIS.

...YOU'RE CONCERNED SHE'S BEEN COOPTED BY POWERFUL NORTHERNERS?

BUT THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE EVE LOCKED UP HERE MEANS...

THAT MR. REYNOLDS ISN'T BLUFFING... HE ACTUALLY HAS THE MONEY.

—WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHY SHE'D THROW HERSELF INTO DANGER AT MY INN.

IN EVE BOLAN'S CASE, THERE ARE TOO MANY SUSPECTS, BUT—

.....

THIS IS ONE REASON EVE BOLAN IS SAFE, BUT...

...I WONDER. ARE YOU ENTRUSTED WITH SOME ARRANGEMENT OF WHICH I'M UNAWARE?

NOTHING PERSONAL, BUT I DON'T SEE SUCH WORTH IN YOU, MR. LAWRENCE.

WHETHER SOMEONE TRULY IS SUPPLYING MR. REYNOLDS WITH THE FUNDS...

...OR EVEN IF HE DOES NOT HAVE THEM, EVE BOLAN IS MOST CERTAINLY INVOLVED.

...WELL, IT'LL ALL BE CLEAR IN A FEW DAYS.

I IMAGINE YOU SHALL NOT MEET THAT WOLF AGAIN, MR. LAWRENCE.

GACHA (CACHAK)

ONE MORE THING.

CHIRIN (RING)

ZA (RUSTLE)

ZA

WHAT MUST I DO TO SAVE MISS EVE FROM THIS PLACE?

(GOKON) (KACLUNK)

ゴン

フゥ

FUU (EXHALE)

THERE'S ONLY ONE POSSIBILITY THAT CAN SAVE THAT WOLF.

THAT IS FOR THE SOURCE OF MR. REYNOLDS'S FUNDS TO BE KNOWN—

FURTHER-MORE, FOR EVE BOLAN TO BE UNINVOLVED.

I HOPE THIS WAS A PRODUCTIVE CONVERSA-TION?

WOULDN'T YOU CONSIDER THAT A PROBLEM OF THEOLOGY?

SUPPOSE YOU LOCK A BAKER AWAY IN HIS OWN SHOP, BUT THEN YOU GO TO BUY HIS BREAD.

...WILL THE TRADE I MEDIATED BE CANCELED?

I WANT TO CON-FIRM...

IF YOU RETURN THE BAKER TO HIS OWN SHOP...

...HE'LL STILL SELL YOU BREAD, PROVIDED HE DOESN'T HOLD A GRUDGE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDER-ATION.

DON'T WORRY, I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER.

...AS YOU SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN A LIKING TO THE WOLF, PLEASE LOOK AFTER YOURSELF TOO.

PLEASE SEE OUR GUESTS OUT.

ズゥン (CLOSE)

I'M SURE YOU'VE TAKEN SOME MEASURES, BUT...

KAN
KAN
GOOO (FWOOM)
KAN (CLANG)
KAN
KAN
KAN
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, COL?
I-IT'S NOT THAT...
IT'S DANGER-OUS, AFTER ALL.
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE OF HOLO'S AND MY SELFISHNESS THAT YOU'RE IN THIS SITUATION. NO ONE WILL BLAME YOU IF YOU LEAVE.
GOOOO

WILL THE COPPER SCHEME JUST NOT BE ENOUGH?

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT MR. REYNOLDS'S MONEY...

IT WON'T COVER THE COST ON ITS OWN.

"SEE."

IT'S NOT NEARLY ENOUGH GOLD TO BUY THE NARWH—

!

KAN カーン KAN カーン

カーン KAN (CLANG)

USING IT TO AVOID PAYING TAXES ON THE NUMBER OF BOXES HE IMPORTS IS A SMALL PROFIT.

WELL, FIRST, WE HAVE TO PROTECT OURSELVES SO...

SA (SHFF)

KAN

KAN

!

...RUN.

WAIT! YOU BAS-TARDS!

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

DA (DASH)

!!

DA (DASH)

DA

DA

DA

DA

DA

DA

CIRCLE AROUND!

ANY MINUTE NOW!

スゥ
SULL (SLIP)

I WAS SURE THAT ..!

!? HEY, WE LOST THEM!?

WHAT JUST —!?

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

!?

スゥ
SULL

スゥ
SUL (SWF)

HFF

HFF

FAR ENOUGH, AYE?

GOKU (GULP)

GOKU

SO THE VIXEN IS SAFE, I TAKE IT?

AS LONG AS KIEMAN DOESN'T GET TOO DESPERATE.

NIYA (LEER)

YOU DON'T SEEM TO HATE EVE ALL THAT MUCH.

MORE IMPOR-TANTLY...

...'TWAS A RIOT AT THE PORT.

NIGH A BATTLE, I TELL YOU.

ZAWA (CLAMOR)
ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA

NOW THEN, I HAVE PREPARED THE PAYMENT.

PAAA (SHIIINE)

THAT A MERE HUMBLE NORTHERN MERCHANT HAD NO HOPE! YOU TOLD ME TO SHOW YOU THE COIN AS PROOF!

YOU CLAIMED I COULD NOT POSSIBLY RAISE THE FUNDS!

WELL, THEN!! RECOGNIZE THAT I AM QUALIFIED TO PURCHASE THE HOLY BEAST!

WHOOOA!
WOWWW!
NICELY DONE, REYNOLDS
NAAAH!
OOOH!

I PRAY THAT MY SINCERITY SHALL NOT BE SCORNED.

SIMPLY MOVING SUCH A LARGE AMOUNT IS A COSTLY ENDEAVOR.

HE WAS NEGOTIATING? WITH THE SOUTHERN-ERS?

MM-HMM

KUH! KUH! KUH!

NOW HE'S FULL OF BLUSTER, HAVING COME FOR REVENGE.

REYNOLDS IS QUITE THE THESPIAN.

I BEAR NO ILL WILL TOWARD THE PEOPLE OF THIS SIDE, BUT THEIR ANXIETY FILLED ME WITH MIRTH.

KUH-FU-FU

HE KEPT RAILING THAT HE WAS A CUSTOMER AND DEMANDED TO BE SHOWN THE WARES.

THEY'RE BUT THREE BLOCKS AWAY FROM US.

AH, I SUPPOSE YOU CANNOT HEAR THEM WITH THOSE EARS.

KOKU (NOD)

D-DID YOU SEE THE COIN FOR YOURSELF?

BUT...HOW DID REYNOLDS GET THAT KIND OF MONEY?

HE DEMANDED TO SEE THE GOODS, WHILE THEY DEMANDED TO SEE THE MONEY.

'TWAS A WAR OF WORDS.

PAAAA (SHIINE)

THEY WERE FAIR OUT OF THEIR SEATS IN ANGER, AND REYNOLDS MATCHED THEM EVERY TIME.

YES!

REYNOLDS SQUIRRELED AWAY THE MONEY!

MR. LAWRENCE!

IT'S STRANGE FOR HIM TO HAVE THE MONEY NOW! MONEY TAKES TIME TO MOVE!

EVEN IF REYNOLDS WAS BEING SUPPLIED THE GOLD BY A WEALTHY PATRON—

UNLESS WE CAN EXPLAIN HOW REYNOLDS COULD HAVE PUT THAT MONEY TOGETHER...

THE VIXEN MAY HAVE MERELY TOLD REYNOLDS WHERE SHE HID HER BAIT.

HMPH!

THEN WE CAN SAVE MISS E—

NO, THIS THEORY DEPENDS ON OUR TRUSTING EVE TO BEGIN WITH.

ZAWA (RUSTLE)

WE KNOW THEIR MOVE.

THEY WILL GO TO THE CHURCH WHERE THE NARWHAL IS.

MM...

MR. LAWRENCE, AT THIS RATE, MISS EVE WILL—

I SEE THREE PATHS.

THREE—

ZA (SKSH)

...WE GO SEE FOR OURSELVES.

TWO— ASK ME FOR HELP.

ONE— GIVE UP.

WHEN YOU'RE CORNERED, NOTHING'S MORE POWERFUL THAN A LITTLE MISDIRECTION.

...WE COULD FABRICATE A STORY OF REYNOLDS GENERATING HUGE PROFITS.

USING THE TRICK YOU DISCOVERED WITH THE COPPER COINS...

GO..... AND DO WHAT?

IF WE COULD CONVINCE MR. KIEMAN, WE'D SAVE EVE...

...AND PROBABLY BUY ENOUGH TIME TO FLEE. EVEN A DAY WOULD SUFFICE.

D-DECEIVE THAT MAN ...?

LET'S THINK IT THROUGH.

KIEMAN'S DESPERATE ENOUGH THAT WE MIGHT MANAGE IT.

THAT'S RIGHT.

COPPER COINS IN SQUARE PATTERN

3

3

REYNOLDS WAS TAKING COPPER COINS COUNTED FOR TAX, ET CETERA, AND CHANGING HOW THEY WERE PACKED TO DISGUISE THEIR NUMBER.

KINGDOM OF WINFIEL

60

JEAN COMPANY

DEBAU COMPANY

58

DEBAU BUYS FIFTY-EIGHT BOXES OF COPPER COIN UPSTREAM, SHIPS SIXTY BOXES TO WINFIEL OVERSEAS.

AMOUNT OF COPPER COINS SHIPPED IS THE SAME

COPPER COINS IN HONEYCOMB PATTERN

2.7

3

PACKED TO PUT MORE INTO BOXES OF THE SAME SIZE

HMM. WHAT COL NOTICED... IT'D WORK BETTER THE OTHER WAY, I THINK.

OBTAIN SIXTY, SEND FIFTY-EIGHT ALONG, KEEPING TWO CRATES. QUITE A PROFIT, IS IT NOT?

INDEED.

THE OTHER WAY?

60

JEAN COMPANY

60

IS IT? HE'D SEND OUT FEWER COINS THAN HE BRINGS IN AND MAKE AT LEAST TWO CRATES BACK.

'TIS THE SAME THING, IS IT NOT?

OR HE COULD BRING IN SIXTY AND SEND SIXTY.

YES, TRUE.

HUH?

I JUST SAID SOMETHING ODD, DIDN'T I?

OF COURSE, IN DOING SO, THE DEBAU COMPANY WOULD TAKE A LOSS—

...EITHER THE DEBAU COMPANY OR THE KINGDOM OF WINFIEL HAD TO TAKE A SIGNIFICANT LOSS.

FOR REYNOLDS TO MAKE A LARGE PROFIT...

THE ABSOLUTE NUMBER OF COPPER COINS WOULDN'T CHANGE.

...THE TAX, AND... AND?

WHAT CHANGES IS THE NUMBER OF CRATES...

EVERYTHING IS FALLING WITHIN MY GRASP!

THE PAY-MENT!

THE DEBAU COMPANY WOULDN'T BE TROUBLED AT ALL! BECAUSE—

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

NO NEED TO MAKE IT UP, HE REALLY CAN RAISE THE CAPITAL FROM THE COPPER...!!

BA (WHAP)

NO TIME TO EXPLAIN.

LET'S GO!

GI (PAUSE)

I WON'T BE JOINING YOU.

I'M NOT JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS—THE REASONING IS TRUE!

NOW OF ALL TIMES?

I THOUGHT OF THIS BECAUSE OF YOU.

THAT IS NOT WHAT I MEAN.

JA (SCUFF)

THEN—

I'VE NO WISH TO SEE YOU PARADING ABOUT IN FRONT OF OTHER FEMALES.

PFFF!

AH
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!
KUHI

I SUPPOSE I CAN'T SAY I'M SHOCKED.

WHERE DID SHE LEARN TO ACT LIKE THAT?

MM.

YOU CAN LEAVE ME BEHIND AND RUN OFF, CAN'T YOU?

SUU (INHALE)

I CAN BUT SMILE ...

YES, LEAVE IT TO ME!

DON (THUMP)

COL...

I CAN BUT SMILE, FOR HOLO WANTS ME TO SMILE.

WHEN I RETURN TO HOLO'S SIDE, I'LL NEED MORE THAN HONEYED PEACHES IN HAND.

SPICE & WOLF

PLEASE LET ME BE IN TIME!

HEY!

ZAWA (CLAMOR)

ZAWA

BAN (SLAM)

!

KUH!

!

A CELLAR! WHERE IS THE ENTRANCE ...!?

Y- YOU'RE —!

!

GAN (THUD)

ZA~ (RUSH)

GATAN (CLATTER)

GOTO (CLUNK)

!

WAIT!

MMPH!

GAH (SLAM)

WHO PUT YOU UP TO THIS!? WHO PAID YOU OFF!?

TELL ME, MERCHANT —!

GATA (CLATTER)

ARGH!

GURUN (FLIP)

DAN (BANG)

UGHHH!

.....
.....

GUIRA (WOBBLE)

YOU'VE GOT TO RELEASE EVE! AT ONCE!

IS SHE BREATH-ING?

GU (PRESS)

SHE SHOULD JUST BE UNCONSCIOUS.

MER... CHANT... YOU...

Guu

IF EVE'S ALIVE, I'LL SHARE SOME CHOICE NEWS WITH YOU.

GABA (RISE)

THAT CAN'T BE!

MR. REYNOLDS MANAGED TO RAISE THE MONEY ON HIS OWN.

ZAWA (MURMUR)

ZAWA

ZAWA

GOKON (KACLUNK)

ZAWA

!

PHEW.

KOFF!

KOFF!

KOFF!

...WHAT... HAVE YOU FOUND...?

I CAME TO THIS CITY ON MY WAY DOWN THE RIVER FROM LENOS.

MID-ROUTE, I PICKED UP A CERTAIN YOUNG LAD—

KASA (RUSTLE)

GU (PRESS)

IT MUST BE DONE.

CAN IT BE DONE?

...DOES NOT BETRAY US.

THAT IS, OF COURSE, ASSUMING THAT SHE...

WELL, THERE'S STILL A CHANCE TO MAKE SOME PROFIT.

GU (CLENCH)

AH, IT'S TRUE.

WE MERCHANTS ARE A SINFUL LOT.

GOD'S FACE SORT OF LOOKED LIKE THE OLD MAN'S. I'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE... NEXT TIME.

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE ENOUGH TO PAY FOR THE TRIP TO HEAVEN.

HEHI

ZORO

ZORO

ZORO

ZORO

ZORO

(FLOCK)

DUHA

(BLOW)

ZAWA

(CLAMOR)

MAKE WAY!

MAKE WAY!

ZAWA

ZAWA

AS THE SECOND MASTER OF THE JEAN COMPANY...

...I HAVE COME TO RECORD A TRADE THAT WILL GO DOWN IN OUR HISTORY!

ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA
(CLAMOR)

GOKOON
(KACLANK)
ゴクオン

THAT'S EVERYTHING I CAN THINK OF, I BELIEVE.

FROM WHERE I STAND, IT'S A TERRIFYING SIGHT.

WITH TAXES, SHIPPING FEES, AND HUSH MONEY, I SUPPOSE THAT WOULD ABOUT SUFFICE.

I'VE SEEN THE DEBAU COMPANY, AFTER ALL.

BETWEEN KIEMAN'S PEN DANCING OVER PARCHMENT, TALLYING FIGURES, AND EVE'S TOP-TO-BOTTOM KNOWLEDGE OF TRADE ROUTES, IT WAS EASY FOR THEM TO WORK OUT THE DEALINGS OF A SINGLE COMPANY.

AS WE EXPECTED.

MR. LAWRENCE, HOW'S THE SANCTUARY?

WELL, SHALL WE MAKE OUR MOVE?

...NATURALLY, THE SOUTHERNERS CAN'T RESPOND IMMEDIATELY. REYNOLDS IS BEING RELENTLESS, BUT...

THAT SHOULD GIVE US SOME TIME.

TON

TON (TAP)

SHA (SHFF)

HERE. YOUR LAST JOB.

IF THE DEAL HAD PROCEEDED AS PLANNED, WITHOUT REYNOLDS...

...I'D HOPED TO SPIRIT AWAY BOTH YOU AND THE NARWHAL.

BETTER FOR ME TO SEE YOU OFF ON YOUR TRAVELS UNDER THE SUN.

I HAVE SOMEWHERE TO RETURN TO, AFTER ALL.

.....

NOW THEN, IF YOU'LL BE SO KIND AS TO WAIT HERE.

KA

KA CL CK

KA

MR. REYNOLDS, IT'S ME, KRAFT LAWRENCE.

FOR MY PART, I AM FULLY PREPARED ANYTIME.

MR. REYNOLDS!

ZAWA (CLAMOR)

ZAWA

SO YOUR REPRE-SENTATIVE HAS YET TO ARRIVE.

WELL, WELL! WHAT HAVE WE HERE?

COME ON UP.

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

NITA (SMIRK)

OH HOH.

WELL, YOU SEE, A CERTAIN WOMAN ASKED ME TO DELIVER THIS.

IT SEEMS TO BE A TRADE REQUEST.

AH

HA!

HA!

HA!

A FORTUITOUS OMEN!

JUST WHEN I WANTED A WORD WITH HER.

BA (SNATCH)

Given that you trade in a large volume of goods, Mr. Reynolds, she requests an inspection of your ledgers.

Said inspection will be conducted by a keen-eyed representative of my trade guild.

Regarding your trade in copper coins...

...we have evidence showing that you received fifty-eight crates from the Debau Company but sent sixty to the Kingdom of Winfiel—

Though at first we assumed you were merely evading tariffs...

W

POTA

POTA (DRIP)

POTA

POTA

Depending on the packing method, the number of coins in a crate can vary.

Using that little trick, you received payment for sixty crates from Winfiel...

...then paid the Debau Company for fifty-eight.

Each separate transaction seems to add up in the ledger, but——

...the "difference" between what you owed and paid does not.

...you were, in fact, **conspiring with the Debau Company** to shift large amounts of capital downstream.

That's the Debau Company's money to begin with, isn't it?

THIS WAS THE CRUX OF HOW REYNOLDS HAD RAISED HIS FUNDS.

Each time, the two-crate "difference" remained at the Jean Company, right?

W-WELL... THAT'S—

Surely they produce many things.

The Roef mines are rich in metal, are they not?

You can use that method for all sorts of things.

Copper ore, brass... you can do it with anything, provided it has a standard round shape.

ZAWA (CLAMOR)

ZAWA

Are you suggesting that this is a mere secret shift of capital?

I'm afraid that simply isn't so.

Shall we send my people to pay the Debau Company a visit?

Your method lets the Debau Company evade taxation, after all.

Each time they trade copper coin with the Jean Company, they lose two crates of coins from their ledgers.

Now, then—

And if there's no profit, they don't have to pay taxes.

WHAT DO YOU WANT? HOW MUCH? WHAT'S YOUR GOAL? TELL ME!

I'M BUT A MESSENGER. NEGOTIATIONS SUCH AS THIS...

...MUST BE CONDUCTED WITH THEM.

I'M A MERE TRAVELING MERCHANT COLLECTING TALES FROM A BOOK, AFTER ALL.

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.

ZAWA

ZAWA (CLAMOR)

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

ZAWA

HUH? WHAT?

I'M SURE THOSE TWO WILL COOK REYNOLDS UP QUITE NICELY.

IT'S NOT THAT I HAD SOLID PROOF. BUT I COULDN'T SHAKE THE FEELING AT THAT MOMENT—

—THIS WAS ONE EXPERIENCE NEVER ATTAINABLE FOR A MERCHANT TRAVELING ON HIS OWN.

I'M BACK.

GACHA (KACHAK)

WELCOME BACK!
WE'RE GLAD TO SEE YOU, MR. LAWRENCE!

あはは
AH-HA-HA-HA!
YAYY!
わあ
KUH KU KU

SPICE & WOLF

THE DAY AFTER THE STRUGGLE OVER THE NARWHAL, WE ATE DINNER ON THE DELTA.

SO WHAT KIND OF HARSH DEAL DID THEY FORCE MR. REYNOLDS INTO?

WELL, NOW. I DIDN'T SEE EXACTLY WHAT IT WAS—

SOMEONE HAD PROVIDED THE FINEST CUISINE. IT WENT WITHOUT SAYING WHO.

...YOU'D THINK THAT KIEMAN USED THE POWER OF THE ROWEN TRADE GUILD'S NAME TO SETTLE THE NARWHAL DEAL BETWEEN REYNOLDS AND THE SOUTH SIDE.

BUT GIVEN HOW QUICKLY HE AGREED TO A DEAL THAT WAS SO LIKELY TO BE TRICKY...

あ AAAH!

HMPH!

HOW MATURE OF THE VIXEN... YOUR GENIALITY MIGHT BE CONTAGIOUS.

OF COURSE, EVE WOULD'VE NEGOTIATED A SHARE OF THE PROFITS FOR THE NORTHERN LANDLORDS.

ZAK (STAB)

MU (IRK)

PERHAPS NOT... SHE'S THE VERY PICTURE OF A MERCHANT, AFTER ALL.

I FELL FOR THAT FORGED DEED SCAM, BUT TO BE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING THIS HUGE...

NORTHERN LANDOWNERS

PROFITS DISTRIBUTED

RESALE

SO IT FEELS LIKE MR. REYNOLDS'S PURCHASE WAS REALLY A DEAL BETWEEN...

...MISS EVE AND MR. KIEMAN.

KIEMAN

ROWEN TRADE GUILD

DON'T TEASE-COL TOO MUCH.

HMM...A THEOLOGICAL QUESTION, ISN'T IT?

MMMM..

...I DO HAVE ONE THING TO SAY.

AH! BUT...

HOW ABOUT THINKING OF IT LIKE THIS?

YOU WERE DECEIVED SO YOU COULD MEET US.

ペコリ
PEKORI (BOW)

IT WAS GOOD FORTUNE THAT I MET YOU.

...I GOT OUT UNSCATHED, SO ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.

WELL, KIEMAN DID USE ME AS A PAWN IN A POWER DISPUTE, AND EVE TRIED TO RECRUIT ME, BUT...

パ
PA (WAVE)

AND GOOD FOR ME, AND GOOD FOR EVE AND KIEMAN.

MIISHA (KRONSCH)

むしゃ

GOOD QUESTION.

THIS IS DELICIOUS. WHAT MEAT IS THIS?

...WHAT IS OUR NEXT DESTINATION TO BE?

AAAH!

ZAKU (STAB)

ザク

SO...

SO YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ON THAT COUNT.

EVE'S GOING TO SEND SOMEONE ROUND TO TELL US WHAT THEY LEARNED FROM REYNOLDS ABOUT THE BOOK.

BARI (CRUNCH) BARI

MM. 'TIS A MERE VERBAL CONTRACT.

PARA (SPRINKLE)

PARA

THE SEA?

MY GUESS IS WE'LL END UP CROSSING THE CHANNEL...

YOU'RE WELL AWARE OF HOW IMPORTANT VERBAL CONTRACTS ARE, AREN'T YOU?

HMM...

BARI

BARI

EH ...?

YOU CAN EAT SHRIMP HEADS. THEY'RE PRETTY TASTY.

...SO IT'S FULL OF PEOPLE WHO EXCEL AT BUYING ALL SORTS OF THINGS.

THE KINGDOM OF WINFIEL IS AN ISLAND NATION THAT IMPORTS FOREIGN CURRENCY...

AH!

SHYO (SWIPE)

NIKO (GRIN)
THAT'S THE WAY TO A HAPPY MEAL, YOU TWO!
BARI
BARI
むぐ
MMPH!
むぐぐ
MUGU (MUNCH)
UU...
KON (KNOCK)
KON
HON-ESTLY...
PIN (FLICK)
ピン
GACHA (KACHAK)
IT'S PROBABLY EVE'S MESSENGER.
NO, I'LL GO.
GATA (CLATTER)
!

MY, PERHAPS I SHOULD'VE GONE IN.

バタン
BATAN (SHUT)

YOU WOUND ME. I'M NOT THE KIND WHO FORGETS A DEBT—

YOU JEST. STILL, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO COME IN PERSON.

AND I OWE YOU MY LIFE.

NI CGRIND

SOME NOTION?

IT TURNS OUT REYNOLDS DID HAVE SOME NOTION OF WHERE THE BOOK WENT.

WHAT NEWS?

ZU (CLOSE)

...ABOUT WHAT YOU ASKED ME.

SO...

KUH!
KUH!
KU CIRKO
I MEAN, HIS CONCLUSION WAS JUST SHORT OF MINE.
HEH. I DON'T THINK YOU WERE MAKING SUCH A SERIOUS FACE YESTERDAY...
AND?
DON'T BE ANGRY. I DIDN'T THINK THINGS WOULD TURN OUT THIS WAY.
IS SHE DRUNK ...?
IT SEEMS A BOOK-SELLER NAMED LE ROI KNOWS WHERE THE BOOK IS.
I'LL JUST SAY IT—

WHETHER YOU CAN CATCH UP TO HIM AND ASK HIM IS UP TO YOU... SORRY.

UNLIKE YOU, HE'S NOT IN THE SAME PLACES EVERY SEASON.

—HOWEVER, I DON'T KNOW HIS CURRENT WHEREABOUTS.

I'LL BE CERTAIN TO REPAY—

NO, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

...I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME.

スッ

SU (REACH)

I'VE BARGAINED FOR MY FURS BACK AND READIED A SHIP HEADING SOUTH.

DON'T BE RUDE NOW. THE FACT IS I OWE YOU.

SO...

THIS SCENT... IS IT ABI LEAF? KIEMAN MUST BE FEELING VERY EXTRA-VAGANT.

THAT WAS PAYMENT FOR THE LESSON.

YOU TAUGHT ME THAT BUSINESS IS MOST PROFITABLE WHEN YOU TAKE YOUR OPPONENT BY SURPRISE.

MY FORMAL NAME IS FLEUR VON EITERZENTAL BOLAN, BUT THERE'S ANOTHER NAME KNOWN ONLY TO THOSE CLOSE TO ME.

ONE OTHER THING.

GU (GRAB)

I HOPE IT'S OF SOME USE TO YOU.

FLEUR VON EITERZENTAL MARIEL BOLAN. I RATHER LIKE THE SOUND OF MARIEL.

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE NAME EVE BOLAN.

HEH! HEH! WHEREVER THERE'S COIN TO BE HAD, YOU'LL FIND ME. I'M SURE WE'LL MEET AGAIN.

...I'M GLAD I MET YOU.

KRAFT LAWRENCE...

GUI (PULL)

HUH? WHAT'S WRONG?

PHEW...

GACHA (KACHAK)

URK...

HA HA...

WAIT HERE IN THE HALL FOR A BIT.

UM, SHE TOLD ME TO GO OUT AND SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON.

GO (RUMBLE)
GO
GO
GO
GO

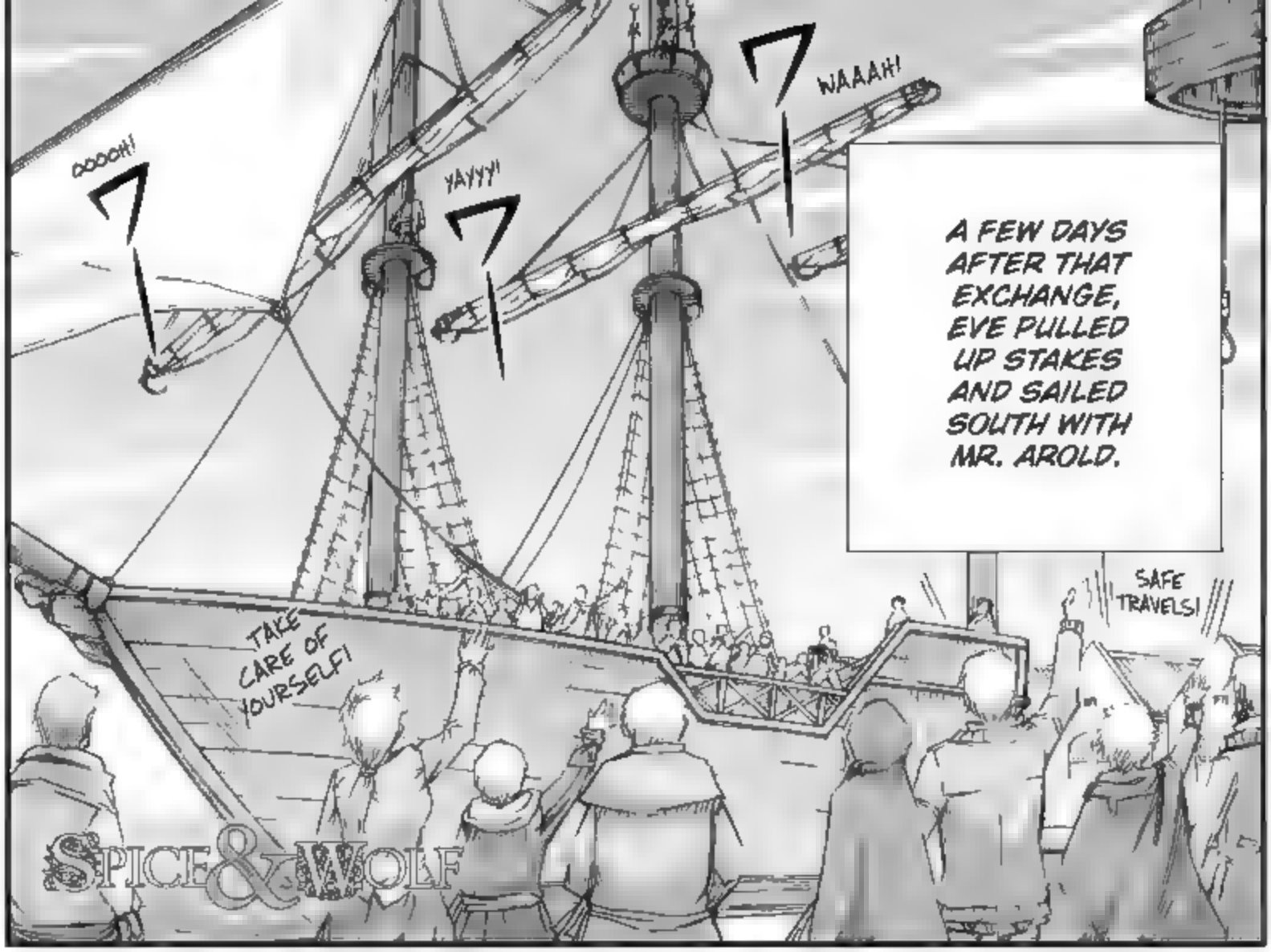
ABI LEAF, HUH ...?

I GOT SOME INFORMATION ON THE BOOK, HOLO.

"I'D RATHER NOT RECOLLECT WHAT HAPPENED NEXT." IF I WERE WRITING MY BIOGRAPHY, I'D END THE CHAPTER WITH THAT...

MUGU (MUNCH)
むぐ

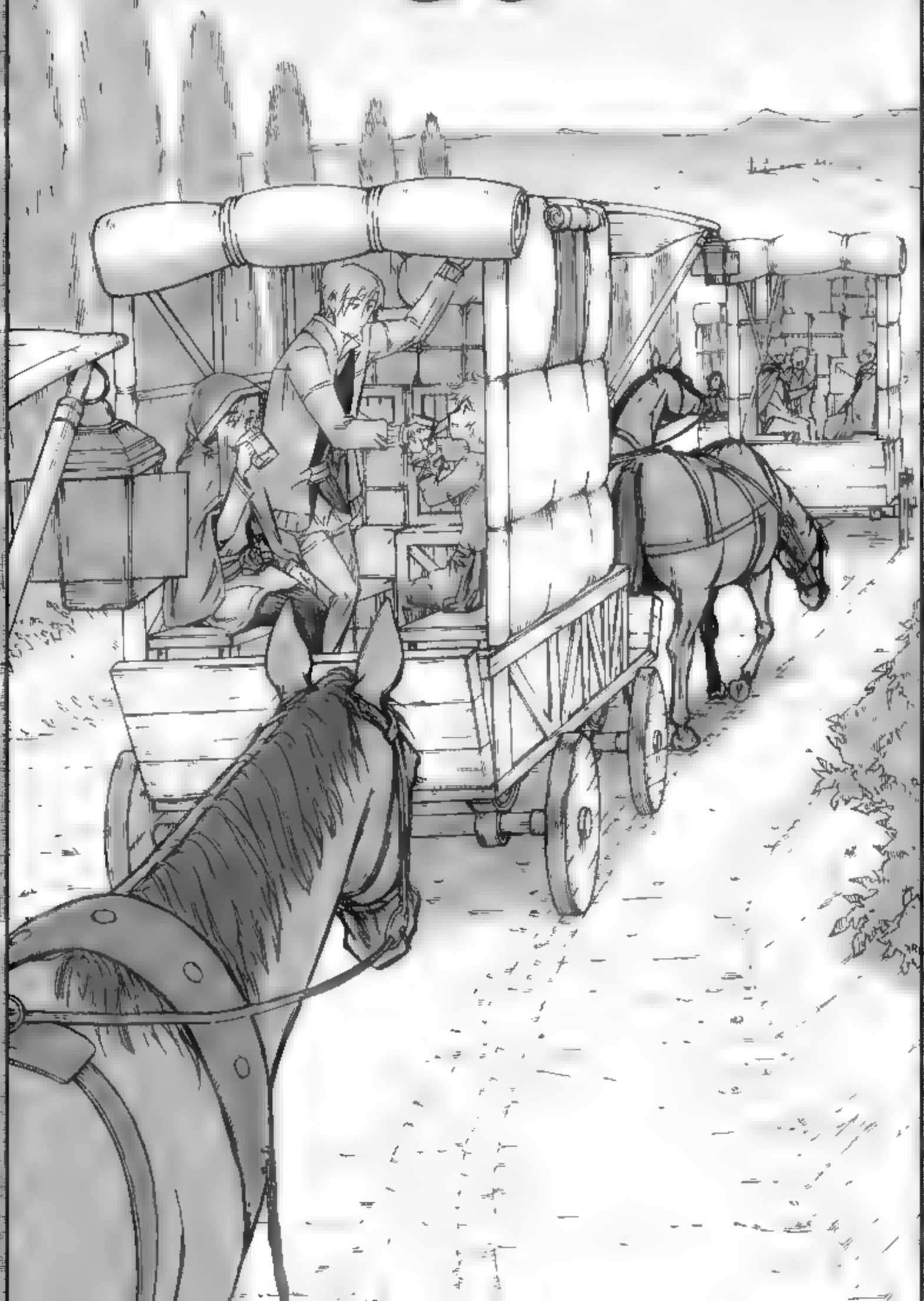
HYOI (PLUCK)
ヒョイ


AAAAH!
YAYYY!
WAAAH!
A FEW DAYS AFTER THAT EXCHANGE, EVE PULLED UP STAKES AND SAILED SOUTH WITH MR. AROLD.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!
SAFE TRAVELS!
SPICE & WOLF

THEY SEEMED TO HAVE FORMED A BOND OVER THE YEARS SHE SPENT IN REFUGE AT MR. AROLD'S INN.
WAAAH!

GOOD LUCK!!

SPICE & WOLF



NOW, THEN, TAKE THIS.

MUCH HAPPENED BETWEEN US, BUT I TOO PRAY FOR HER GOOD FORTUNE.

I SEE. SO SHE DEPARTED SAFELY...

—FRAN VONELY, THE ACTUAL ILLUSTRATOR OF THE MAP, IS FAMOUSLY DIFFICULT TO PLEASE.

MR. HUGUES'S ART STUDIO IS ITSELF RELIABLE, BUT—

IF YOU'RE HEADING NORTH, YOU SHOULD SET OFF FROM LENOS.

FROM LENOS?

NOT AT ALL. ACQUIRING MAPS IS SOMETHING OF A HOBBY OF MINE.

I WILL NEGOTIATE THE COMPENSATION PERSONALLY, BUT IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IF IT ISN'T TOO MUCH TROUBLE, I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD HAVE THE MAP SENT TO THE BEAST & FISH TAIL TAVERN.

THERE'S NO GUILD BRANCH IN LENOS, IS THERE?

I THINK IT'S BEST YOU GO AHEAD AND MAKE PREPARATIONS THERE.

MR. HUGUES WILL DELIVER THE MAP AS SOON AS IT IS DONE.

SU (EXTEND)

A FAMOUS ESTABLISHMENT, EVEN IN KERUBE. VERY WELL.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

THOUGH DIFFERENT FROM HOLO, FRAN HAD A MYSTERIOUS AIR, ONE THAT BELIED HER YOUTH.

WITH KIEMAN'S LETTER OF INTRODUCTION, WE MET WITH FRAN VONELY OF THE HUGUES ART STUDIO, WHO WAS TO DRAW US A MAP OF YOITSU'S PRESUMED LOCATION.

THE WISEWOLF HERSELF WAS ROOTED BEFORE FRAN'S PAINTINGS OF DISTANT LANDS, PERHAPS SEARCHING FOR THE YOITSU THAT LIVED IN HER MEMORY.

MM? WAIT, YOU HAVE FUR THERE.

'TIS TO PROTECT ME FROM THE COLD. PLEASE LET IT GO?

FIVE DAYS LATER • LENOS

I THOUGHT IT WAS A FOX

CHEAP WOLF FUR, HUH...? ALL RIGHT, YOU MAY PASS!

NEXT!

...BUT I DO NOT CONSIDER MY SPECIES TO BE SO LACKING.

BUTSU (GRUMBLE)

BUTSU

BUTSU

I HARDLY THINK MYSELF THE PINNACLE OF ALL CREATION...

I... I, AH, BELIEVE YOU'RE RIGHT.

DEPENDING UPON ONE'S MOOD, ORDINARY LAMB CAN BE TASTIER THAN THE FINEST DEER. IS THAT NOT SO?

ZUI (LOOM)

KI (GLARE)

OH YES! I CER- TAINLY DO! OF COURSE !

WOULD YOU NOT AGREE?

...WELL, IF WE HAVE TIME TO BUY SOME, SURE.

PUI (SNUB)

OR HIGH QUALITY OIL.

WE CAN GET HOT WATER FROM THE INNKEEPER. IT MAKES A GOOD SALVE FOR WOUNDED PRIDE.

THAT GATE INSPECTOR REALLY WORKED HER UP...

WHILE KEEPING OUR EARS OPEN, WE'LL ARRANGE A WAGON, WARM CLOTHES, AND FOOD.

MM.

THREE OR FOUR DAYS, AT MOST.

KOTSU (STEP)

KOTSU.

180

PA (BEAM)

SO HOW LONG ARE WE TO REMAIN HERE?

IF THE FORMER, THE ROAD TO LESKO. IF THE LATTER, ON TO NYOHHIRA.

IF THE PATH TO OUR DESTINATION IS WELL TRAVELED, SOME SNOW IS FINE. OTHERWISE, WE'LL HAVE TO PICK BETTER ROADS.

IT'S AN OLD TOWN WHOSE HOT SPRINGS OVERFLOW LIKE WATERFALLS.

ONLY BY NAME.

DO YOU KNOW OF THE TOWN OF NYOHHIRA, COL?

IT'S SURROUNDED BY PAGAN TERRITORIES BUT IS SAID TO HOUSE THE WORLD'S FINEST CLERGYMEN.

YES.

I'VE ONLY PASSED THROUGH IT ONCE. IT STRUCK ME AS AN ODD TOWN.

ODD, YOU SAY?

SO THOSE PAINED BY THE CONSTANT STRIFE OF THE WORLD GATHER THERE...

...CONVINCED THAT IT HOLDS THE SECRET TO FINDING ETERNAL PEACE.

PON (PAT)

ALSO, IT HAS ENDURED CENTURIES WITHOUT EXPERIENCING A WAR.

WHA—?

ERRR...!

I BATHED IN A SPRING THERE LONG AGO, BUT...

...ONCE I HAD COOLED OFF, I RECOLLECTED MY COMBATIVE SPIRIT. SO WHAT OF IT?

NADE

NADE (PET)

BEAST & FISH TAIL TAVERN

I THINK WE SHOULD GATHER INFORMATION BOTH HERE AND ELSE-WHERE.

THE INNKEEPER ISN'T IN?

FEW INNS ARE DOING BUSINESS NOW BECAUSE OF THE EARLIER DISTURBANCE.

IS THIS TRULY A TAVERN?

'TIS NOT THAT I DISLIKE DRINKING IN DAYLIGHT, BUT...

AN ATTRACTIVE, FAMOUS FEMALE PERFORMER BRINGS IN A LOT OF PATRONS. GOOD FOR GATHERING INFOR-MATION.

I DIDN'T HAVE YOU WITH ME LAST TIME.

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU HAVE SOME NERVE.

OH?

...ER!

WELL...

...I OFTEN BATHE IN THE NYOHHIRA SPRINGS AND FORGET THE RAGE IN MY HEART, SO...

ZA (STRIDE)

COL, SORRY, WATCH OUR THINGS FOR ME.

R— RIGHT!

DOSA (THWJUMP)

HMM?

AH...MR. LAWRENCE!

HELLO, MISS HELENA.

COME CHASING SOME TALK OF PROFIT?

KASHA (SHINK)

YOU REMEMBER! YOU HAVE MY THANKS FOR YOUR EARLIER KINDNESS.

NO, NO, I'VE HAD MY FILL OF THAT.

I'VE HEARD THAT FROM MORE THAN ONE MERCHANT.

I DON'T DOUBT IT.

HEH HEH.

MERCHANTS CATCH THE DISEASE FROM TIME TO TIME. COME OUT WITH THE SAME EXCUSES TOO.

"I'M CURSED." "I'VE HAD ENOUGH." "WHAT DID I EVER DO WRONG?"

THE USUAL TALK OF PROFIT IS PREFERABLE TO BELLY-ACHING.

YOU END NO WORSE THAN YOU BEGAN, AFTER ALL.

'TIS JUST SO, IS IT NOT?

ZUI (CLOSE)

ME?

A-ANYWAY. WE'RE LODGING HERE FOR TODAY...

...AND I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.

GUI (GULP)

CHURUN (SLURP)

GA (GRAB)

GUSHA (SQUELCH)

AH!

IF YOU MEAN FURS—

PWAH!

TALK OF FURS WON'T GET YOU ANYWHERE NOW, YOU HEAR?

THESE TWO WOULD PROBABLY GET ALONG UNEXPECTEDLY WELL, WOULDN'T THEY...?

ASKING ME SUCH A THING. HOW RUDE!

PUKU (POUT)

...I'D HOPED YOU MIGHT INTRODUCE US TO A GOOD INN WHERE WE CAN SPEND THE NIGHT.

IT'S NOT THAT. WE WANT TO STAY IN TOWN AGAIN, SO...

OHH?

PERHAPS SHE JESTS. 'TIS BEST TO LODGE RIGHT HERE.

? ? ? ?

EH?

AH, OHH!

OH LORD, I BESEECH YOU!

ぷっ
PFFT!

くっ
KUH FU!

あっ
AH!?

はっ
HA!

は
HA!

は
HA!

は
HA!

は
HA!

HA HA HA...

すくっ
SUKU (STAND)

SO THAT'S WHY...GOODNESS, NO WONDER HE'S CONSIDERED SO UNASSAILABLY DENSE!

はっ
HFF!

は
HFF!

YOU CERTAINLY KNOW HOW TO TEASE THIS FELLOW.

SALT IN HOME COOKING IS THE BEST, BUT USING IT DOESN'T GUARANTEE THE MOST DELICIOUS MEAL. HOW SILLY OF ME.

MM.

BUT I DO CREDIT YOUR KEEN EYE FOR SPLENDID FOOD.

AS INNS GO, I RECOMMEND YUNUS ON THE CONVENT STREET. TELL 'EM I SENT YOU.

THAT'S A GREAT HELP...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

CHIRA (GLANCE)

IS THAT ALL? I CAN MAKE YOU A MEAL TO TIDE YOU OVER.

GYU (TRAMPLE)

OH, I SEE. YOU'D RATHER EAT IN A QUIET ROOM THAN HERE.

WHAT? THERE'S ONE MORE?

THERE'S ONE MORE WAITING OUTSIDE, SO MAKE IT A MEAL FOR THREE.

IT'LL TAKE A BIT, BUT IT'LL BE READY BEFORE THE SUN SETS. CHEF'S CHOICE OKAY WITH YOU?

AH, SURE.

OHH?

PERHAPS I CAN MAKE SOME USE OF HIM.

SORRY, IT'S NOT A GIRL, BUT RATHER A BOY STUDYING TO BE A CLERGYMAN. WE PICKED HIM UP ON OUR TRAVELS.

MUU (IRK)

AH, THAT'S RIGHT.

HMM?

GOTO (CLUNK)

SHE'S MORE UPSET ABOUT COL THAN ME

SHAAA (HISS)

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT!

FROM WHOM IN KERUBE, I WONDER?

AHHH— YES, YES, GLADLY.

A LETTER FOR ME SHOULD BE ARRIVING HERE FROM KERUBE. WOULD YOU MIND SENDING IT ON TO OUR TAVERN?

AHH!

QUITE A PHYSIQUE ON THAT ONE. HE DROPS IN FOR A MEAL FROM TIME TO TIME.

THE HUGUES STUDIO, AN ART DEALER.

YOU'RE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW

FU FU

NO CRIME IN FEASTING AT THE FISH TAIL, HE SAYS. WOLFS DOWN A HEAP TOO.

BUT SOME-HOW...

...SOME-HOW...

...I WAS HOPING A DIFFERENT KIND OF LETTER MIGHT ARRIVE INSTEAD...

HUH?

?

IF IT WAS A LETTER FROM SOMEONE QUITE FAR OFF, COULD YOU STILL MANAGE IT?

!

BLIN

BLIN (SHAKE)

IF I COULD SEND FOR ONE OF YOUR MEALS BY LETTER FROM A FAR-OFF LOCALE, I MOST CERTAINLY WOULD.

PATAN (SHUT)

HMPH!

WHAT I UNEARTH, YOU WOULD LEAVE IN THE SOIL FOR LIFE.

PUI (FWIP)

I DON'T WANT TO GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE FOR JUST ONE PERSON!

—I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT.

I COOK FOR LOTS OF PEOPLE HERE. IT'S WHAT I LIVE FOR.

AT YUNUS, WE ATE HELENA'S FINE COOKING AND DRANK PLENTY—

SO WE SLEPT UNTIL LATE MORNING THE NEXT DAY.

THE INNKEEPER TOLD ME THAT THE OWNER OF PHILON GENERAL STORE KNOWS MUCH ABOUT THE NORTH.

HIS MAIN JOB IS MEDIATING WITH MERCENARIES, SO HE SHOULD KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE.

UGH...

I DON'T THINK I CAN EAT ANY...

UGH...

BREAK-FAST ON THE WAY, THEN.

IT'S NOT FAR FROM HERE, SO I THOUGHT WE'D GO AND GET OUR WAGON.

WHEWWN...

HAFU

HAFU (CHOMP)

HERE, HUH ...?

FUAA CYAWN

IT'S ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO.

OH?

WELL, I'M COUNTIN' ON YA, EVEN IF YA WEREN'T LISTENIN'.

HA HA HA!

カロン
KARON
(TINKLE)

NIKO
(GRIN)

ZUI
(LOOM)

MM?

MMM...

HOW 'BOUT HIM? I'M SURE HE CAN BE OF USE.

BY THE LOOKS OF HIM, HE MUST MAKE FOR AN AMUSING DRINKING PARTNER.

DOSU

DOSU
(THUD)

BUT Y'DO SEEM A FINE LAD! LET'S HELP EACH OTHER OUT SOMETIME!

HA HA HA

HAN!
(PAT)

BAN
(WHAM)

BAN

HE'S NO GOOD TO RUN A SHOP!

GAH HA HA HA!

HE'LL RUN OFF WITH THE MERCHANDISE FIRST CHANCE HE GETS!

SO WHAT IS IT YOU WANTED, YOUNG MERCHANT?

I HAVE A NUN AND A THEOLOGY STUDENT WITH ME.

I AM KRAFT LAWRENCE, A TRAVELING MERCHANT.

WAH, EEP!

DOSA (THUD)

KARON (TINKLE)

A STRANGE BUNCH. I DON'T SEE WHY YOU CAME HERE, B—

MM...?

SCRIP-TURES... A BOOK-SELLER ...?

WELL, LOOK WHO WE HAVE HERE...

AH, THANK-YOU.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

OW, OW, OW... OH, BEG YOUR PARDON.

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD TAKE IT PERSONALLY.

GOD, THAT BASTARD! DOES HE KNOW WHAT HELL I WENT THROUGH ...!!?

DOSSUN (KAWHUMP)

HEARD WAR RUMORS AND BROUGHT HOLY BOOKS? PITY, BUT THAT UNIT LEFT FOR THE NORTH SOME TIME AGO.

SORRY YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY, BUT YOUR TIMING'S HORRIBLE.

WHAT?

MISS ELSA!

!

YOU OUGHT TO REFLECT UPON YOUR OWN AVARICE INSTEAD OF PROFANING GOD!

MR. LAWRENCE?

?

To be continued in Volume 12...

Special thanks!!

MR. OKAMOTO ITTOUHEI, MR. TENTSU TOI, MR. YAKKUN, MR. N-TA, MR. ORIGUCHI, MR. YUU, MR. A.

Three cheers for Volume 11 being released! We're finally headed for the final conflict and a big climax! You simply must enjoy the developments to come! You don't want to disappoint cute little Holo do you? (^_^)

支倉凍砂

ISUNA HASEKURA

SPICE & WOLF

■ Three cheers for Volume 11's release! There's still more to come, so don't you dare look away!

JYUU AYAKURA

SPICE & WOLF 11

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This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

OOKAMI TO KOUSHINRYOU Vol. II
©Isuna Hasekura/Keito Koume 2014
Edited by ASCII MEDIA WORKS
First published in Japan in 2014 by
KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo.
English translation rights arranged with
KADOKAWA CORPORATION, Tokyo,
through Tuttle-Mori Agency, Inc., Tokyo.

Translation © 2015 by Hachette Book Group

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Yen Press
Hachette Book Group
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10104

www.HachetteBookGroup.com
www.YenPress.com

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First Yen Press ebook Edition: March 2016

ebook ISBN: 978-0-316-31837-2

App ISBN: 978-0-316-36207-8